NARRATOR: Fereday, Jeff INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves

DATE: June 28, 2001 LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

Tape	
Counter	Summary
000	Introduction.
010	Fereday discussed some non-smokejumping aspects of his life. Fereday grew up and attended schools in Boise. Fereday also detailed his post-secondary education and his work experience. He attended universities in New York and Oregon, worked for the Idaho Conservation League, and for law offices in both Colorado and Idaho.
030	Fereday described his High School experience at Borah High School. He talked about a rivalry between Boise and Borah High Schools. In his experience the competition between the two institutions was friendly.
060	After graduating from Borah High School, Fereday attended school at Columbia University in New York City, New York. He explained his transition from the largest city in Idaho to the largest city in the nation. He talked about the term, "culture shock." He mentioned that other students from Idaho attended Columbia at the same time he did; he talked about meeting with these students as well as making new friends from around the country.
095	Fereday practices law. He talked about how he became interested in law, and he summarized his experience at Columbia.
125	During his early years, Fereday hiked and camped in the forests and deserts of Idaho. He described his outdoor activities, and with prompting from the narrator, he talked about specific areas in Idaho where he and his friends hiked and camped.
175	Fereday talked about how he became involved in forest fire fighting. He spent most of his summers in McCall, Idaho. He got to know people there, worked at a summer camp, and at a pizza parlor. During High School, while working at The Brass Lamp pizza parlor he spoke with forest fire fighters when they came in to eat. They directed him to people in the forest service to talk with about becoming a member of a "Hot Shot" crew. In the early 1960s when Fereday heard about the death of smokejumper Ken Salyer, he remembers thinking at that time that he did not want to be a smokejumper.

- In the summer of 1968, Fereday became a member of a "Hot Shot" crew, when a member of the crew went into the military. He joined the crew in August, but he did not fight many fires. He talked about the two fires he fought during that summer, including the San Gabriel fire in California. He described that fire in particular. It ended up being a large fire, and killed eight fire fighters.
- The McCall crew on the San Gabriel Mountains fire consisted of "Hot Shots" and smokejumpers. Fereday talked about the initial attack on one part of that project fire, and one smokejumper, Carl Rosselli, whose experience and quick thinking probably saved their lives.
- During the summer of 1969, Fereday returned to McCall to work with the same crew. He briefly talked about that fire season; he met with Del Catlin, the foreman of the smokejumping camp in Boise. That meeting led to his working with the smokejumpers in McCall in the summer of 1970.
- When Fereday joined the crew in August 1968, he came on during the end of the season. He talked about his good physical shape which helped him immediately.
- Fereday worked on the "Elephant Fence" project, near Paddy Flat east of Donnelly, Idaho, during his first few weeks on the McCall "Hot Shot" crew. He described in detail this specific project, which was building a fence to hold the forest service's animals.

# 495 END OF SIDE ONE TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

- Fereday continued to describe the "Elephant Fence" project. He felt this project offered good training for his fire fighting. He realized early that project work was necessary during the fire season, particularly during a slow fire year. He felt thrilled to "have his foot in the door," so he did not complain at all about project work.
- Fereday could not recall any specific training; he said it was "on-the-job training." He felt confident working with an axe, shovel, and other fire fighting tools. He talked about several people on the "Hot Shot" crew that helped him to learn about fighting fire. He did not recall any rite-of-passage performed on him during his time on the "Hot Shot" crew.
- Fereday described his first fire. After talking about the fire, Fereday remembered that his first fire was not the Horse Mountain fire, but a fire near Mackay Bar in the Salmon River canyon. He did not recall any scary

or serious situation on that fire. He talked about the experience of fighting fire in the Idaho Primitive Area.

- During his years with the forest service (1968-1974), Fereday became focused on environmental issues. He explained the good and bad things during his fire fighting career that arose with his increased environmental awareness.
- With prompting from the narrator, Fereday returned his thoughts to the San Gabriel Mountains fire in California in 1968. He explained how a McCall crew became involved in battling the blazes, how the McCall crew arrived in California, what types of people fought the fire, and how busy and large the fire camp was.
- During this fire poison oak trees burned, causing lung injuries to a member of Fereday's crew. He continued to talk about this project fire, including what types of jobs they performed, and when they did them. They worked on this fire both during the day and during the night, probably on 12-hour shifts.
- Fereday's crew left the fire just in time for him to begin his college career at Columbia. He opined about how fighting fire, particularly the San Gabriel Mountains fire, affected him. According to Fereday, the experience probably increased his confidence; he felt that if he could fight fire, he could succeed in college.
- He told another story about the San Gabriel Mountains fire. A large rock rolled down the fire line; he moved quickly to avoid the rock and possibly serious injury.
- 415 END OF SIDE TWO END OF INTERVIEW

Big Creek (Idaho)

Boise High School

Boise, Idaho

Borah High School

Brass Lamp Pizza (Boise and McCall, Idaho)

Bruneau River

Capitol High School

Catlin, Del

Columbia University (New York City, New York)

Dow, Rod

Foote, Ralph

Horse Mountain fire (1968 or 1969, Idaho)

Howe, Jeff

Idaho Conservation League

Idaho Primitive Area

Kellogg, David

Mackay Bar (Idaho)

Marshall, Stu

McCall, Idaho

Owyhee Mountains

Paddy Flat (area east of Donnelly, Idaho)

Paradise Point (Episcopal Church camp near McCall, Idaho)

Rosselli, Carl

Salyer, Ken

San Gabriel Mountains fire (1968, California)

Sawtooth Mountains

NARRATOR: Fereday, Jeff INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves

DATE: July 6, 2001 LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

Tape _Counter	Summary
000	Introduction.
005	Fereday talked about his second summer on the "Hot Shot" crew in McCall in 1969. This summer he participated in the various types of fire school to learn about various aspects of fire. Fereday discussed the importance of fire weather school and the way the rest of the school felt like refresher training.
045	From his early years at the family's cabin in McCall, Fereday learned the skills with an axe, shovel, and saw. He used these skills and tools while he worked as a smokejumper.
055	Fereday purchased boots that the other smokejumpers and "Hot Shots" did not use. They used a boot from the White Boot Company. Fereday explained why smokejumpers used the "Whites" and the importance of this type of boot, or a quality boot, to fight fire. Fereday continued to talk about the White Boot Company.
115	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday discussed in detail the tools that "Hot Shot" crews and smokejumpers used to battle blazes in the forest.
180	During the 1969 fire season, Fereday fought on several fires. He called it "a more regular year," because it was less eventful. He briefly described the Horse Mountain fire near Big Creek in the central Idaho forest. He discusses the difference between fighting a fire as a smokejumper and fighting a fire as a "Hot Shot" crew.
235	During this fire season, Fereday became a squad boss later in the season. He explained his thoughts and feelings about becoming a leader during his second fire year.
290	According to Fereday the camaraderie on the "Hot Shot" (or 25-man) crew was pretty good. He said that there were some natural internal groupings with the crew, but it was never an "us and them" mentality. Although Fereday has kept in touch with some of the crew during his 1968 and 1969 "Hot Shot" crew history, he does not know where most of them

are. He said, however, that he does not have a close relationship with any of them.

- During his short time as a squad boss, Fereday followed the protocols of the job. He explained the aspects of being a squad boss, including what decisions a squad boss could make while on the fire line.
- With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday offered an overview of containing a fire line, particularly the building of one. He furnished the difference between creating a burn out, and burning a backfire.

## 500 END OF SIDE ONE TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

- Fereday continued his description of building a fire line. He talked about fighting fire at night, fighting off the cold morning and night weather, and dealing with burning snags. He talked about the aptitude of forest fire fighters working with dangerous equipment, such as a chainsaw.
- With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday talked about how fire fighters used shovels. He also described three aspects of fire fighting: direct attack, indirect attack, and mop-up. Smokejumpers used a "breakdown" shovel, and Fereday explained the difference between that shovel and a regular shovel.
- Fereday explained how fire fighters attack a blaze, particularly how the "classic" fire line building starts behind the fire. The blaze battlers then worked the sides of the fire to flank it. Fereday wanted to clarify that workers do not usually dig a continuous fire line; they could move up the fire to create a line at a difficult spot.
- According to Fereday experienced fire fighters were vital to battling a blaze. He retold a story from the first interview about Carl Rosselli's experience and how it benefited the crew during the San Gabriel Mountains fire in California in 1968.
- Fereday did not have a true mentor, but he tried to learn from many of the veteran "Hot Shots" and smokejumpers. Fighting fire, according to Fereday, involved hard work and common sense. When he became a veteran smokejumper, he tried to pass on his knowledge to the rookies or "neds."
- Fereday described the benefits of fire school, and the benefits of learning from the veterans on a fire.

250 With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday offered an overview of the fire weather school he attended every summer. He offered a few examples of how he applied his fire weather school knowledge to an actual fire. During the 1969 fire season, Fereday fought fires in Washington and 300 Oregon. He explained how his "Hot Shot" crew arrived at fires in other western states. He also described some long hikes into a fire as a "Hot Shot," and some long pack-outs as a smokejumper. 355 During the 1969 fire season, Fereday started talking to the smokejumpers' foreman, Del Catlin, about joining the group. He said that even during the 1968 season he thought about becoming a smokejumper. He remembered receiving his acceptance letter in the winter of 1969/1970. 400 When he returned to Columbia University, Fereday does not remember telling firefighting stories to the classmates. He said that his friends did not really show much interest in the fire fighting experience. Upon his return to Columbia, he really buckled down and worked at his studies; he did not spend a lot of time thinking about the summer. 445 With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday talked about the similarities and differences between physical hard work and mental hard work. 490 END OF SIDE TWO TAPE TWO SIDE ONE 000 [No introduction.] When Fereday came to the smokejumper base as a "ned" or rookie smokejumper, he felt much different than the other times he visited the camp. He said it was filled with challenges, but he knew it would be like that. 025 Fereday talked about the paramilitary aspects of smokejumping. He said that the structure of the training and the dispassion towards the "neds" seemed quite similar to the military. 060 With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday furnished his opinions on how his "Hot Shot" training and his academic experience probably helped him as a smokejumper, although he did not think about it in that way at the time. 080 Rookie smokejumpers at the McCall camp were all called "neds." Fereday mentioned what he remembered about the folklore of the term, "ned." 100 END OF SIDE ONE

**END OF INTERVIEW** 

Big Creek (Idaho)

Catlin, Del

Columbia University (New York)

Gabica, Martin

Heikkenen, Ed [Edwin]

Horse Mountain fire (Idaho, 1969)

Howe, Jeff

Kellogg, Dave

King, John

Marshall, Stuart

McCall, Idaho

Payette National Forest

Rosselli, Carl

San Gabriel Mountains fire (California, 1968)

Shaver's (McCall)

Thorn Creek (Idaho)

United States Forest Service

White Boot Company (Spokane, Washington)

NARRATOR: Fereday, Jeff INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves

DATE: July 27, 2001 LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

Tape Counter	Page No.	Summary
000	1	Introduction.
010	1	Fereday described the aspects of his physical training during his first year as a smokejumper. He particularly talked about the various parts of the physical training (PT) test that smokejumpers needed to pass to continue with the program. Fereday's only real problem with the PT test was climbing the rope; he slipped and burned his fingers sliding down the rope; he seemed to be in good shape at all times during his early adult years.
095	3	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday described a typical day during his smokejumper training, particularly after he passed the PT test. During the day smokejumpers toiled at various tasks and could do additional physical exercise (push-ups) if they were not adept at any of these tasks.
145	5	During a typical day, smokejumpers could practice the Allen Roll. Fereday talked about this roll, which was the way smokejumpers learned to land on the ground from the air. He also mentioned the classroom, or non-physical training they did during their training. During his rookie year, the McCall jumpers trained with the Boise jumpers; Fereday thought that experience helped him during his smokejumping years.
230	8	At the end of the training period, rookie smokejumpers participated in a pack-out. Fereday provided an overview of this pack-out, including veteran smokejumpers putting rocks in his pack. Fereday talked about the supervisors and foremen during his years in McCall.
300	9	During the neds' (rookie smokejumpers) first year, they would flip a coin with the loser doing some usually unpleasant task. He described the "heads out" rule for the coin flips, one smokejumper (Rod Dow), who loved to gamble, and "Big Flip," which Fereday and Rod Dow started their first year in McCall. Fereday offered a

		detailed description of the "Big Flip," particularly how it began in McCall but has moved to other smokejumper bases.
465	11	The winner of the "Big Flip" bought a round of beer or threw a party, except for the first year; the winner deposited his winnings (nearly \$450) in the bank.
500	13	END OF SIDE ONE TAPE ONE SIDE TWO
000	13	Fereday continued his thoughts about the "Big Flip." Fereday only came close to winning once during his five years as a participant. He also explained that the participants usually went down to one of the McCall bars after the competition.
035	14	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday described where The Cellar, a former McCall bar, was located.
050	15	Fereday described the various places and activities in and around McCall that smokejumpers played during their time away from smokejumping. Fereday did not frequent the bars or many of the rowdy parties; he explained his non-drinking extracurricular activities. He also noted that smokejumpers spent many summer evenings at the base, because the jumpers would be on-call.
115	17	During the season and at the end of the season, smokejumpers held two events. Jumpers had a party at Idaho City (Christmas in July), and their termination party held in late August/early September.
150	18	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday furnished his thoughts about why McCall was (and is) a unique place for smokejumpers. He specifically described the physical features in and around the town.
245	20	During his years as a smokejumper, Fereday met an area old-timer (George Fritser) in the backcountry on the Salmon River. Fereday described how they met, and what he and other smokejumpers did with and for Fritser. When Fereday left McCall in 1974, many other smokejumpers knew about Fritser and admired him and his life.
350	23	Fereday told a story about some fellow smokejumpers and Fritser going to the fiddlers' festival in Weiser, Idaho.
460	25	END OF TAPE ONE

# TAPE TWO SIDE ONE

000	25	Smokejumpers at McCall played (and play) a lot of volleyball. Fereday talked about the "jungle rules" that smokejumpers played by, and usual times that the smokejumpers played the game. He also said that the jumpers really could and did play well. He also mentioned a yearly game between the McCall jumpers and the McCall "Hot Shot" crew that was played by the rules and was very competitive.
055	27	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday talked about flipping a coin as part of the smokejumper ritual. He did not recall the origin of the coin flip in smokejumper history. Fereday continued to discuss the coin flip, particularly in terms of "hazing" with old jumpers forcing a coin flip onto the neds or rookie jumpers. He said that when he became a veteran smokejumper he never forced a coin flip onto a ned.
100	29	He talked about his background and his feelings about the Vietnam War; this era and his feelings about this era almost required him not to force arbitrary jobs or hazing rituals onto rookie jumpers. Fereday concluded by the tension between the jumpers and the administration during this time over peoples' feelings about the Vietnam War.
170	30	END OF SIDE ONE END OF INTERVIEW

Abromeit, Doug

Collier, Thomas

Corn, Herb

Dixon, Jerry

Dow, Rod

Duel, Thad

Fereday, Kay

Ferguson, William

Fields, Wayne

Foresters' Club (McCall, Idaho)

Fritser, George

Gabica, Martin

Green Lantern (McCall, Idaho)

Hatler, Fred

Heinrich, Vaughn

Henry, Keke [sic]

Hovdey, Dean

Idaho City, Idaho

Jemmett, Coy

Lynch, Richard

Masi, Vincent

McCall, Idaho

Montoya, Robert

Newlun, William

Noble, Clark

Norfleet, James

Payette Lake (Idaho)

Purlee, John

Ruiz, Ted

Salmon River

The Cellar (McCall, Idaho)

Uranga, Louie

Vietnam War

Webb, Wayne

Weiser, Idaho

Yacht Club (McCall, Idaho)

Yensen, William

NARRATOR: Fereday, Jeff INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves DATE: September 12, 2001 LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

Tape Counter	Page No.	Summary
000	1	Introduction.
010	2	Fereday did not recall any specific rite of passage to become a smokejumper. He mentioned that since he lived off the base he missed out on any rite-of-passage.
045	2	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday talked about the benefits of living away from the smokejumper base. He talked about how some of his fellow smokejumpers would come to Fereday's family cabin to spend time.
070	3	During his time as a smokejumper, Fereday played the guitar as a hobby. He talked about other smokejumpers that played musical instruments. Fereday continued to talk about purchasing guitars in New York for fellow smokejumpers, trying to attend the Old Time Fiddlers' Contest in Weiser, and playing guitar on the base during standby or on fires, if they knew they would stay somewhere for an extended period of time.
130	5	Many musicians, including Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Merle Travis, and styles, including the blues, jazz, and country, influenced Fereday's musical style.
170	5	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday discussed how his time in New York really started his interest in guitar and music. While in New York, he found the blues and country music, both of which influenced him greatly.
220	7	During Fereday's time as a jumper, the Vietnam War was a big influence on his life and others. He talked about the war and how it affected the relationship between the jumpers and the foreman at the camp. Fereday mentioned specific leaders at the camp, including Wayne Webb, Del Catlin, and Thad Duel. Fereday said that tension arose more from generational issues than from the Vietnam War.

325	9	Along with generational issues, environmental issues also began to rise among several jumpers, including Fereday. He told a story to illustrate his rising environmentalism. Fereday offered his thoughts about what environmentalism means to him.
425	12	According to Fereday, an increase in education led to his interest in environmental issues.
485	13	END OF SIDE ONE TAPE ONE SIDE TWO
000	13	Fereday also felt that the Vietnam War helped increase his awareness to question authority on various topics, including environmental issues. He mentioned volunteering for the newly formed Idaho Conservation League.
025	14	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday detailed the protocols that jumpers followed from the fire bell until they returned to camp. Fereday also mentioned the airplanes and pilots that helped the jumpers get to the fires.
295	20	Fereday described how and why smokejumpers might stay on a fire for multiple days. He also talked about the food that jumpers ate while on at the fire.
335	23	Jumping out of an airplane, according to Fereday, was always exciting. He told a story about another jumper to illustrate that point. He also mentioned a few fires that the weather, particularly the wind, greatly influenced the jump.
410	25	When jumpers returned to the base, they repacked their personal bag. Fereday mentioned the numerous items that jumpers would put into their bags. He also described the protocols involved with the jumper's parachute.
495	27	END OF SIDE TWO END OF INTERVIEW

Big Creek (Idaho)

Butts Creek fire (Idaho)

Catlin, Del

Dow, Rod

Duel, Thad

Fields, Wayne "Wink"

Hovdey, Dean

Idaho Conservation League

Larkin, Jim

McCall, Idaho

New York, New York

Nichol, Bob

Owyhee Mountains (Idaho)

Payette National Forest (Idaho)

Salmon River (Idaho)

Steiner, Bob

Taylor Ranch (Idaho)

United States Forest Service

Webb, Wayne

Yergensen, Bruce

NARRATOR: Fereday, Jeff INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves DATE: November 7, 2001 LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

Tape Counter	Page No.	Summary
000	1	Introduction.
010	2	Fereday discussed what types of project work or rest a smokejumper could get when he returned from a fire. He also explained what a smokejumper would do when he returned to the base during a "fire bust," or busy fire period. A set number of jumpers, according to Fereday, would be placed on standby; he discussed what activities smokejumpers would do during standby.
085	4	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday furnished his memories about packing parachutes, one of the jobs he did when he was not jumping on \and fighting fires. He also mentioned other parachute loft activities, including packing the reserve parachutes, repairing parachutes, and sewing carrying bags for smokejumping and forest fire fighting equipment and material.
175	6	Fereday would pack parachutes as project work, but he said that he toiled at various projects because he liked the variety. He continued to describe packing parachutes. Fereday noted that he never hesitated to use a parachute that he packed, or that anyone else packed, on a jump.
215	8	During Fereday's five years at McCall (1970-1974), there were not large fires season in Idaho. However, he did talk about the 1970 fire season in eastern and central Washington; he and other jumpers fought fires in Washington for approximately one month. Fereday described that summer, discussing his experience, and other McCall jumpers.
325	11	Fereday told a specific story about a fire in central Washington. He and two other jumpers fought a fire without radio communication, and also had an interesting experience returning to a forest service ranger station.
475	14	END OF SIDE ONE TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

000	14	Fereday continued to talk about the 1970 fire season. He mentioned meeting other smokejumpers during his month in Washington.
030	15	Fereday's first fire jump was on the Umatilla National Forest in Oregon. He talked about the experience on that first jump, specifically looking down at the terrain from the airplane.
060	16	Along with the smokejumpers and the pilot, a spotter helped the jumpers while they were in the plane. Fereday offered his memories about the role of a spotter.
115	17	The jumpers, according to Fereday, tried to learn all they could from the spotter, and from other aspects of the pre-jump activities. He provided his thoughts about the physical and mental aspects of jumping from an airplane.
170	20	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday talked about the importance of a good pilot to help the jumpers, particularly the pilot's skill in dropping cargo to them. He said that he had faith in the pilots.
230	21	Fereday offered a story about the importance of having the pilot drop the cargo on the ground and not in a tree. Fereday had to climb up two trees to get the cargo and a chainsaw.
315	24	Fereday jumped on the Butz Creek fire in 1974. He offered his memories, including the hazardous landing conditions, about that fire. The jumpers and a fire crew fought that fire for several days.
375	25	1974 was Fereday's last year at the McCall smokejumper base. He left from McCall to jump at Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1975, and he explained why he made that change.
420	26	END OF SIDE TWO END OF INTERVIEW

Blattner, Jerry

Butz Creek fire (1974, Idaho)

Collier, Tom

Dow, Rod

Duel, Thad

Fairbanks, Alaska

Hill, Mike

LaGrande, Oregon

Masi, Vince

McCall, Idaho

Nichol, Bob

Skei, Don (Missoula, Montana smokejumper)

Steiner, Bob

Umatilla National Forest (Oregon)

United States Forest Service

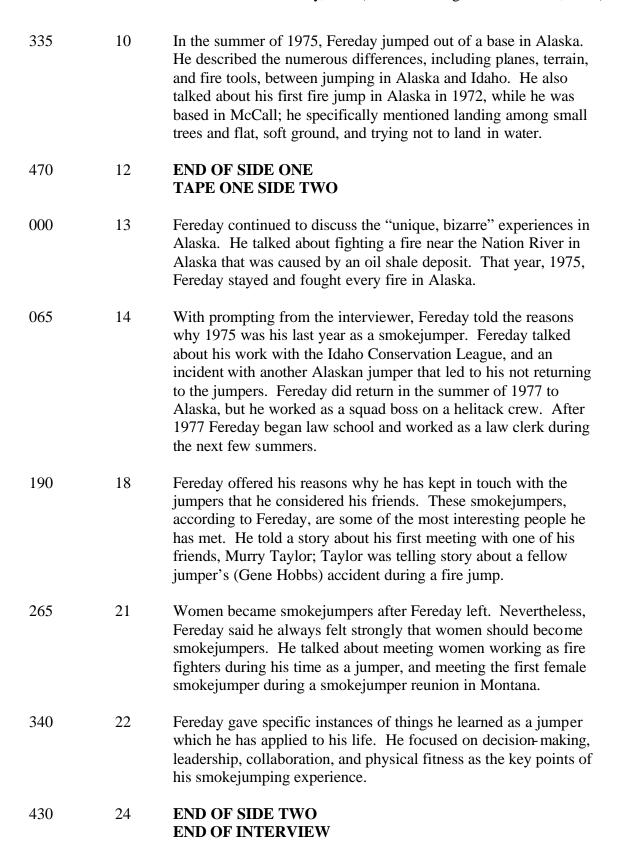
Webb, Wayne

Wenatchee National Forest (Washington)

Winthrop, Washington

NARRATOR: Fereday, Jeff INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves DATE: November 20, 2001 LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

Tape Counter	Page No.	Summary
000	1	Introduction.
010	1	With prompting from the interviewer, Fereday described, in detail, a particular fire he and other McCall fire fighters fought in northern New Mexico. This McCall crew fought the fire to protect expensive homes in the forest. He told a story about how one homeowner let the firefighters stay at his home after they had stopped the fire from destroying his home.
090	3	Fereday kept a journal of the fires he fought. He talked about these journals and what kind of information he wrote in them.
105	4	According to Fereday, he did not feel that he missed out on the college experience, particularly his professional career, by spending his summers fighting fires. He talked about his college years in New York, and how it affected his attitude about the U.S. West. He said that he was glad he spent those consecutive summers fighting fires.
160	5	Fereday was ready to return to smokejumping every summer. He did not recall having a selective memory about the good or bad aspects of the experience. He said that college was hard work for him, but he did remember during the late summer wanting to return to college.
200	6	Most, or many jumpers, according to Fereday, went into smokejumping as a springboard for a fire-related field. Fereday did not feel that way; he did not have the desire to make forest fire fighting a career.
225	7	Several smokejumpers, including Fereday's friend, Rod Dow, visited him while he attended school in New York. Fereday discussed one of Dow's trips to New York. He also talked about other jumpers, including Wayne Fields and Marty Gobecka, who became Fereday's friends.



Bureau of Land Management

Clarkson, Mike (Alaska smokejumper)

Dow, Rod

Fields, Wayne

Gobecka, Martin

Hobbs, Gene

Idaho Conservation League

Jumping Fire (book by Murry Taylor about smokejumping)

McCall, Idaho

Nation River (Alaska)

New York, New York

Shulman, Deanne (first female smokejumper)

Steiner, Bob

Taylor, Murry

United States Forest Service